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GARDEN STATE RESIDENTS FAVOR MORE GUN RESTRICTIONS

Three-quarters of registered voters in the Garden State favor greater restrictions on guns and ammunition, according to the most recent statewide poll by Fairleigh Dickinson University's PublicMind. The only proposal offered to reduce gun violence in society that garners more support is instituting more proactive mental illness measures (93%). Rounding out the list of measures with majority support is reducing the level of violence in movies and videogames (61%).

"The Newtown shooting has brought the issue of gun violence back into the national spotlight, and New Jersey voters are clearly united behind the belief that more needs to be done to address preventable tragedies that result from guns ending up in the hands of the wrong people," said Krista Jenkins, director of PublicMind and professor of political science at Fairleigh Dickinson University. "Recently proposed legislation in the New Jersey Assembly that would require mental health evaluations and home inspections for potential gun owners has the potential to receive public support."

When it comes to measures that have been offered in response to the recent tragedy by gun rights advocates – placing armed guards in public places like schools, and fewer restrictions on firearms and ammunition – Garden Staters are decidedly less supportive. Residents oppose, by 50 percent, the National Rifle Association's proposed plan to arm schools, with 45 percent in favor. A significantly smaller percentage of voters (24%) support fewer restrictions on guns and ammunition.

"A lack of support for these measures comes as no surprise since New Jersey residents are clearly more pro-gun control in their beliefs than supportive of the rights of gun owners," said Jenkins. Fifty-eight percent of respondents identify themselves as "pro-gun control," compared with nearly a third (31%) who consider themselves to be "pro-gun ownership."

It's also notable that New Jersey is less armed than the rest of the nation. Sixteen percent say they or someone in their household owns a handgun or other firearm. As for the effect that owning a firearm has on an individual's attitudes toward gun control, gun owners are far less likely to endorse more restrictions. A slight majority of gun owners (53%) support more

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restrictions, while four out of five non-gun owners offer a similar response (81%). Gun ownership is less determinative of attitudes toward other proposed measures.

Across virtually all of the measures proposed to reduce gun violence, some predictable demographic differences emerge. Democrats (89%) and women (83%) stand out as comparatively strong supporters of greater restrictions on guns and ammunition, while Republicans (62%) and men (68%) are less supportive. Women also stand out for their strong support toward efforts to reduce the level of violence in movies and videogames (72%). When it comes to placing armed guards in public places such as schools and shopping malls, some of the greatest support comes from non-whites. Sixty-four percent support this idea, compared with 37 percent of whites.

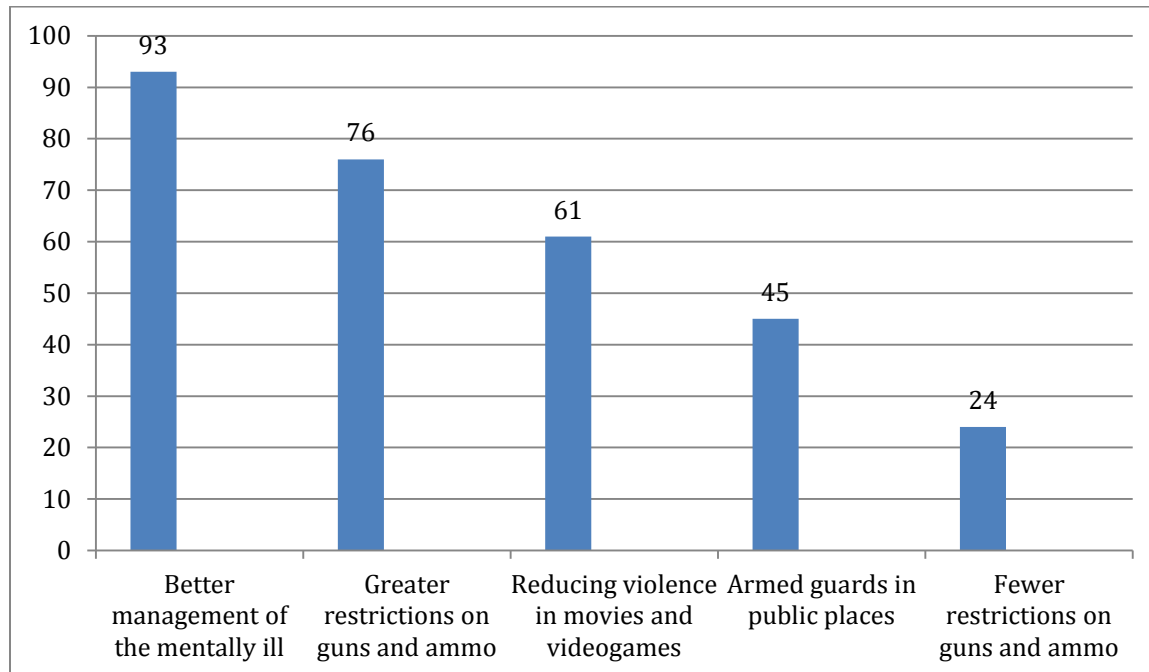
“Despite partisan and other differences regarding select proposals, it’s equally important to point out that groups differ largely over the magnitude of their support. There’s a fairly broad consensus across a variety of groups in New Jersey over what folks would like to both do and not do in order to stem the tide of gun violence,” said Jenkins. The greatest consensus can be found in regard to better screening and treatment options for the mentally ill. More than 90 percent of all demographic categories favor this as a way to limit gun violence.

“Taken as a whole, these findings underscore the appreciation that Garden State residents have for the complexity of solving the problem of gun violence,” said Jenkins. “There is no simple solution, and voters, to varying degrees, are open to the idea of trying some proposals more than others.”

The Fairleigh Dickinson University poll of 700 registered voters statewide was conducted by telephone using both landlines and cell phones from January 2 through January 6, 2013, and has a margin of error of +/-3.7 percentage points.

*Methodology, questions, and tables on the web at: <http://publicmind.fdu.edu>
Radio actualities at 201.692.2846 For more information, please call 201.692.7032*

Percent favoring various measures to reduce gun violence



Methodology

The most recent survey by Fairleigh Dickinson University's PublicMind was conducted by telephone from January 2 through January 6, 2013, using a randomly selected sample of 700 registered voters in New Jersey. One can be 95 percent confident that the error attributable to sampling has a range of +/- 3.7 percentage points. The margin of error for subgroups is larger and varies by the size of that subgroup. Survey results are also subject to non-sampling error. This kind of error, which cannot be measured, arises from a number of factors including, but not limited to, non-response (eligible individuals refusing to be interviewed), question wording, the order in which questions are asked, and variations among interviewers.

PublicMind interviews are conducted by Opinion America of Cedar Knolls, NJ, with professionally trained interviewers using a CATI (Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing) system. Random selection is achieved by computerized random-digit dialing. This technique gives every person with a landline phone number (including those with unlisted numbers) an equal chance of being selected.

Landline households are supplemented with a separate, randomly selected sample of cell-phone respondents interviewed in the same time frame. The total combined sample is mathematically weighted to match known demographics of age, race and gender.

Gun control series

Please tell me if you favor or oppose “placing greater restriction on firearms, including ammunition” in order to reduce gun violence in society.

	All	Party			Gender		Age		
		Dem	Ind	Rep	Men	Women	18-34	35-54	55+
Favor	76%	89	71	62	68	83	79	74	76
Oppose	20%	10	21	34	28	13	20	21	19
Unsure	4%	1	8	4	4	4	1	4	4

	Race		Gun owner	
	White	Non-white	Yes	No
Favor	72	86	53	81
Oppose	25	9	44	15
Unsure	3	5	3	4

Please tell me if you favor or oppose “placing fewer restrictions on firearms, including ammunition” in order to reduce gun violence in society.

	All	Party			Gender		Age		
		Dem	Ind	Rep	Men	Women	18-34	35-54	55+
Favor	24%	20	24	30	24	24	28	23	23
Oppose	72%	79	71	63	72	72	72	73	72
Unsure	3%	1	4	7	4	3	0	4	6

	Race		Gun owner	
	White	Non-white	Yes	No
Favor	24	23	34	22
Oppose	72	74	62	75
Unsure	4	3	5	3

Please tell me if you favor or oppose “reducing the level of violence in movies and videogames” in order to reduce gun violence in society.

	All	Party			Gender		Age		
		Dem	Ind	Rep	Men	Women	18-34	35-54	55+
Favor	61%	59	70	61	49	72	50	58	71
Oppose	32%	34	24	32	42	22	46	36	17
Unsure	7%	7	6	7	9	6	4	6	11

	Race		Gun owner	
	White	Non-white	Yes	No
Favor	59	67	49	64
Oppose	33	28	43	29
Unsure	9	5	8	7

Please tell me if you favor or oppose “better management of the mentally ill” in order to reduce gun violence in society.

	All	Party			Gender		Age		
		Dem	Ind	Rep	Men	Women	18-34	35-54	55+
Favor	93%	91	94	95	92	94	91	95	91
Oppose	4%	5	3	2	4	4	5	3	3
Unsure	4%	4	4	3	4	2	3	2	6

	Race		Gun owner	
	White	Non-white	Yes	No
Favor	94	91	92	93
Oppose	3	6	7	3
Unsure	4	3	2	4

Please tell me if you favor or oppose “placing armed guards in public places, such as schools and shopping malls” in order to reduce gun violence in society.

	All	Party			Gender		Age		
		Dem	Ind	Rep	Men	Women	18-34	35-54	55+
Favor	45%	45	40	47	40	48	50	50	36
Oppose	50%	52	51	47	55	45	47	47	55
Unsure	5%	3	9	6	4	6	3	4	9

	Race		Gun owner	
	White	Non-white	Yes	No
Favor	37	64	47	44
Oppose	56	33	48	51
Unsure	6	3	4	6

On the issue of guns, would you consider yourself pro-gun ownership, or pro-gun control?

	All	Party			Gender		Age		
		Dem	Ind	Rep	Men	Women	18-34	35-54	55+
Pro-gun ownership	31%	16	35	51	40	23	26	39	24
Pro-gun control	58%	74	48	40	49	67	60	51	65
Both about equality	4%	6	8	6	8	5	5	6	7
Unsure	4%	4	9	3	4	5	9	3	3

	Race		Gun owner	
	White	Non-white	Yes	No
Pro-gun ownership	36	19	57	25
Pro-gun control	55	67	31	65
Both about equality	7	4	11	5
Unsure	3	9	1	5

Do you or anyone in your household own a handgun or other firearm?

	All	Party			Gender		Age		
		Dem	Ind	Rep	Men	Women	18-34	35-54	55+
Yes	16%	12	22	21	21	12	18	18	17
No	82%	87	78	74	76	87	82	82	82
DK/Ref	2%	1	1	4	4	1	0	3	2

	Race	
	White	Non-white
Yes	18	11
No	80	88
DK/Ref	2	1

Exact Question Wording and Order

US1, US2, NJ1 through NJ3, NJ4A, NJ4C, NJ4D, NJ5, and NJ6 released Monday, January 7, 2013

NJ4B and NJE released Thursday, January 10, 2013

Please tell me if you favor or oppose each of the following in order to reduce gun violence in society: [Randomize question order]

NJ7a Placing greater restrictions on firearms, including ammunition

- 1 Favor
- 2 Oppose
- 8 DK/Refuse (VOL)

NJ7b Placing fewer restrictions on firearms, including ammunition

- 1 Favor
- 2 Oppose
- 8 DK/Refuse (VOL)

NJ7c Reducing the level of violence in movies and videogames

- 1 Favor
- 2 Oppose
- 8 DK/Refuse (VOL)

NJ7d Better management of the mentally ill

- 1 Favor
- 2 Oppose
- 8 DK/Refuse (VOL)

NJ7e Placing armed guards in public places, such as schools and shopping malls

- 1 Favor
- 2 Oppose
- 8 DK/Refuse (VOL)

NJ8 On the issue of guns, would you consider yourself pro-gun ownership, or pro-gun control?

- 1 Pro-gun ownership
- 2 Pro-gun control
- 3 Both about equally (VOL)
- 8 Don't know (vol)

Sample characteristics**Gender**

Male	47
Female	53

Age

18-34	22
35-54	41
55+	36
Refused	1

Race/Ethnicity

White	69
Black/African-American	11
Latino or Hispanic	10
Asian	6
Other/refused	3

Public employee household

Yes	23
No	76
Unsure/refused	1

Party identification

Democrat/Lean Democrat	48
Independent/DK/refused	19
Republican/Lean Republican	33